



50X1-HUM

**SECRET**S-E-C-R-E-T

A good example of the joint economic efforts of Georgia and Azerbaydzhan is the construction of the Transcaucasus Metallurgical Plant, which is to operate with a complete metallurgical production cycle. Construction of this plant began before the war. Its location in Georgia, in the center of the Transcaucasus, makes it most convenient for the distribution of its products among the three adjoining republics. Iron ore is supplied from the Dashkesan deposit of the Azerbaydzhan SSR and coal from the Tkvarcheli and Tkibuli coal mines of Georgia. The Transcaucasus Metallurgical Plant is making higher demands on the Georgian coal industry with regard to the volume of coal output and the quality of coal, i.e., coking ability and minimum ash content.(1)

The Transcaucasus Metallurgical Plant began to operate during April 1950, when the first open-hearth furnace was put into operation. The first blooming mill began operating several months later. During 1950, the plant smelted thousands of tons of steel and began the production of rolled steel.(4)

After all construction work has been finished, the plant is to produce pig iron, coke, and pipes for the Azerbaydzhan petroleum industry.(5) In addition, the plant is to produce roofing iron, wire and rolled sections for construction and for machine-building plants of the three Transcaucasian republics. The production of ferrous metal in Georgia has formed the basis for further industrialization of the neighboring republics.(1)

The open-hearth shop and the blooming shop are the leading shops of the plant. Several months ago, while still in the period of organization, the open-hearth shop was completing only 80 percent of its plan, whereas now the plan is being fulfilled 100 or 110 percent.(4) A new open-hearth furnace was put into operation at the plant on 24 February.(5)

There are still shortcomings in the work of the open-hearth and blooming shops. The technical training of the workers is poorly organized. There are still losses of metal in pouring, or cases where steel remains in the furnaces too long. Charging of furnaces sometimes takes longer than necessary. Heads of shops or shifts are not always present when a melt is completed. The work area is cluttered with scrap and useless equipment. Cooperation between various shop divisions is not always well organized. Machinery is still too frequently idle because of the absence of a repair schedule. Socialist competition has not yet fully developed between brigades and individuals, and individual production records are not made known to all the workers of the shop. There is no close cooperation between the open-hearth and the rolling shops.(4)

#### SOURCES

1. Moscow, Voprosy Ekonomiki, No 3, Mar 51
2. Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 22 Feb 51
3. Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 24 Mar 51
4. Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 31 Mar 51
5. Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 25 Feb 51

- E N D -

- 2 -

S-E-C-R-E-T**SECRET**